

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Railway Projects for Assam

348. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the North-East Times of 4th January, 2001 under the heading "Mamata likely to announce Railway Projects for Assam";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the progress achieved so far in implementation of pending projects for development of Railways in Assam; and

(d) what new projects Government have under consideration for development of Railways in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) Decisions regarding any new projects to be taken up all over the country will be placed before the House while presenting the Railway Budget 2001-02.

(c) Progress of railway projects in Assam are given in the Statement (See below).

Statement

On-going Railway Projects in Assam

Sl. No.	Plan-Head	Name of Project	Cost	Expenditure upto March, 2000	Budget Outlay for 2000-01	Status
Amount in Crores of Rs.						
1.	New Line	Jogighopa-Guwahati	637.00	469.72	15.00	The work has been completed and commissioned.
2.	New Line	Dudhnoi-Depa	22.33	3.70	0.10	The work was sanctioned in 1992-93. However, Meghalaya Govt. has not made available the land so far for this project due to resistance from local people. However, papers for land acquisition have been submitted in July 1997. There is no problem in acquiring the land for the portion of the line falling in Assam and land acquisition will be pursued after the land in Meghalaya is handed over. Work on this project would be taken up only after the land becomes available and will be completed subject to availability of resources.
3.	New Line	Harmuti-Itanagar	156.00	10.23	10.00	This work has been frozen at the request of State Govt. who now want an alternative alignment from Helem to Itanagar for which a survey has been sanctioned.

On-going Railway Projects in Assam

Sl. No.	Plan-Head	Name of Project	Cost	Expenditure upto March, 2000	Budget Outlay for 2000-01	Status
Amount in Crores of Rs.						
4.	New Line	Bogibeel Bridge	1000.00	5.00	5.00	The detailed investigation & final location survey have been taken up by RITES.
5.	New Line	Diphu-Karong PHI	1600.00	10.29	15.00	This work has been frozen since Govt. of Manipur has suggested Jiribam-Imphal as an alternative alignment to this work.
6.	New Line	New Maynaguri-Jogigopa	733.00	0.00	6.00	New work included in the Budget 2000-01. Final Location Survey is being taken up.
7.	Gauge Conversion	New Guwahati-Lumding	194.10	193.77	0.20	Work has been completed and commissioned.
8.	Gauge Conversion	Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked fingers.	734.83	660.72	10.00	The work of main line from Lumding to Dibrugarh, Tinsukhia-Lekhapani and branch lines from Furkating to Mariani and Simalguri-Moranhata has been completed. Gauge Conversion work on Makum-Dangari is in progress and is targeted to be completed by March 2001. On Amguri-Tuli section the work has been delayed on account of stay order by a court.

Sl. No.	Plan-Head	Name of Project	Cost	Expenditure upto March, 2000	Budget Outlay for 2000-01	Status
Amount in Crores of Rs.						
9.	Gauge Conversion	Lumding-Silchar	648.00	45.75	40.00	Final location survey for diversions in the Ghat section to suit the requirement of BG and preparation of land acquisition plan and papers has been taken up. RITES have already completed the paper alignment for entire length and staking of the alignment has been completed in 150 km. Earthwork and bridges are now in progress between Lumding and silchar in 90 km length (40 km from Lumding end and 50 km from Silchar end). 40% of the earthwork in this 90 km length has been completed, and 50 minor bridges out of 138 in this length have also been completed. Work of Silchar Jiribam gauge conversion is being carried out as a material modification of this work.
10.	Gauge Conversion	Katahal-Bairabhi	200.00	2.00	0.10	Requisite clearances have since been recieved. Preliminary arrangements are being made for starting the work.
11.	Gauge Conversion	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigoan	535.88	48.00	80.00	Requisite clearances have since been recieved. Contract for earthwork and bridges over 230 kms has been awarded and work is in progress.